United Nations S/2018/46

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 January 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 18 January 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in accordance with article 35, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides that any Member of the United Nations may bring to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly any dispute or situation the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, I write to you regarding recent incidents in which Qatar has put the security and safety of international civil aviation at risk.

Recently, the State of Qatar has insisted on carrying out acts that threaten the safety of airline flights operating under the flag of the United Arab Emirates, thereby putting the lives of their passengers at risk. Those scheduled flights were intercepted as they were flying along regular internationally agreed flight paths. That is made plain by the details of the following two incidents:

1. On Monday, 15 January 2018, at 0633 hours UTC, Qatari combat aircraft took off from the State of Qatar and crossed the path of regularly scheduled Emirates airline flight UAE837/EK837, which was using the customary flight path UP699, with 213 passengers on board.

2. On that same day at 0705 hours UTC, two Qatari combat aircraft flew within three nautical miles behind an Etihad Airways aircraft making regularly scheduled flight ETD23B/EY371 from Abu Dhabi to the Kingdom of Bahrain, with 85 passengers on board. It was flying along the customary flight path UP699, which is used by all international airlines, including Etihad Airways and Emirates.

It should be noted that the State of Qatar did not send any advance navigation notice to civilian flights. Nor did it register any objection to the flight paths of the two above-mentioned aircraft, despite having advance knowledge thereof. Please find annexed maps illustrating the above-described incidents. It should be noted that the United Arab Emirates has notified the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) of these two incidents in accordance with established air navigation security and safety procedures.

In addition to the preceding, I should like to draw attention to the fact that simultaneously with the two aforementioned civilian flights, there were other civilian flights from other States that were not intercepted by Qatari combat aircraft. That proves beyond any doubt that the Qatari combat aircraft deliberately intended to intercept the two United Arab Emirates flights as opposed to any others, in an unacceptable provocation and an unwarranted escalation on the part of the State of

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Qatar that affects the security and safety of civilian flights and could lead to serious incidents that would pose a dire threat to the lives of passengers.

The above-mentioned regrettable and serious incidents, the deliberate Qatari threat to the freedom of international air navigation, and the threat posed to the safety of civilian passengers all constitute behaviour that might ultimately lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute in the sense provided for in Article 34 of the Charter of the United Nations.

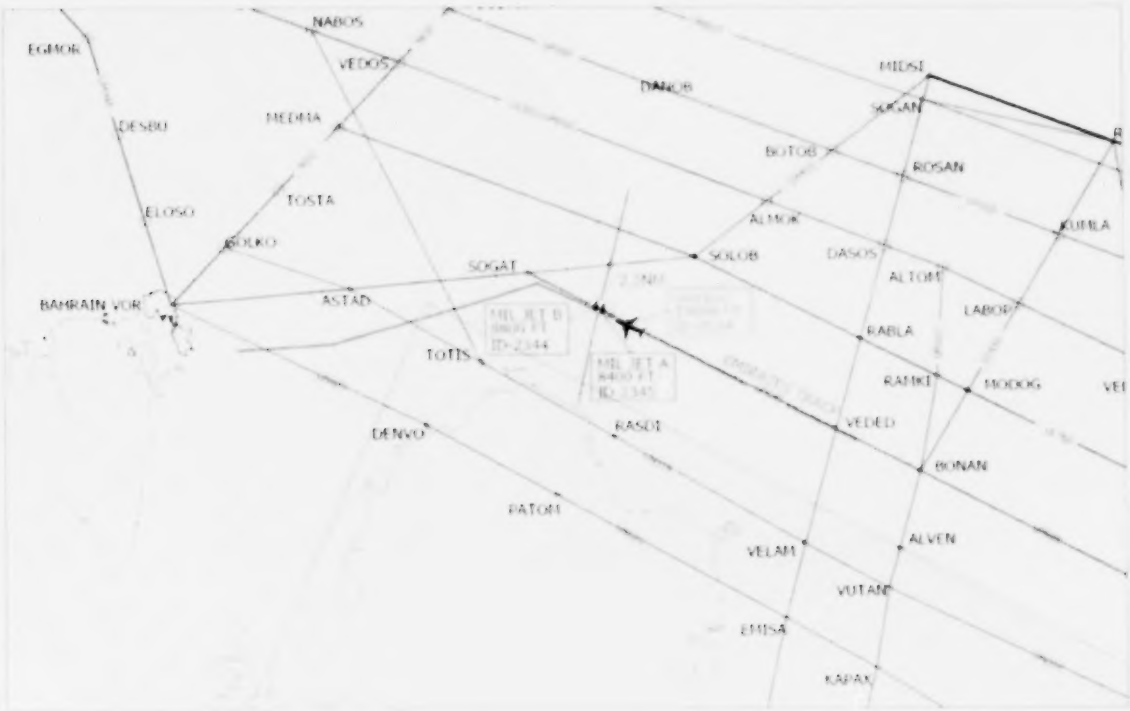
Lastly, the United Arab Emirates would like to reaffirm its full commitment to the security and safety of international air navigation and its absolute compliance with the international laws, principles and procedures applicable in that regard.

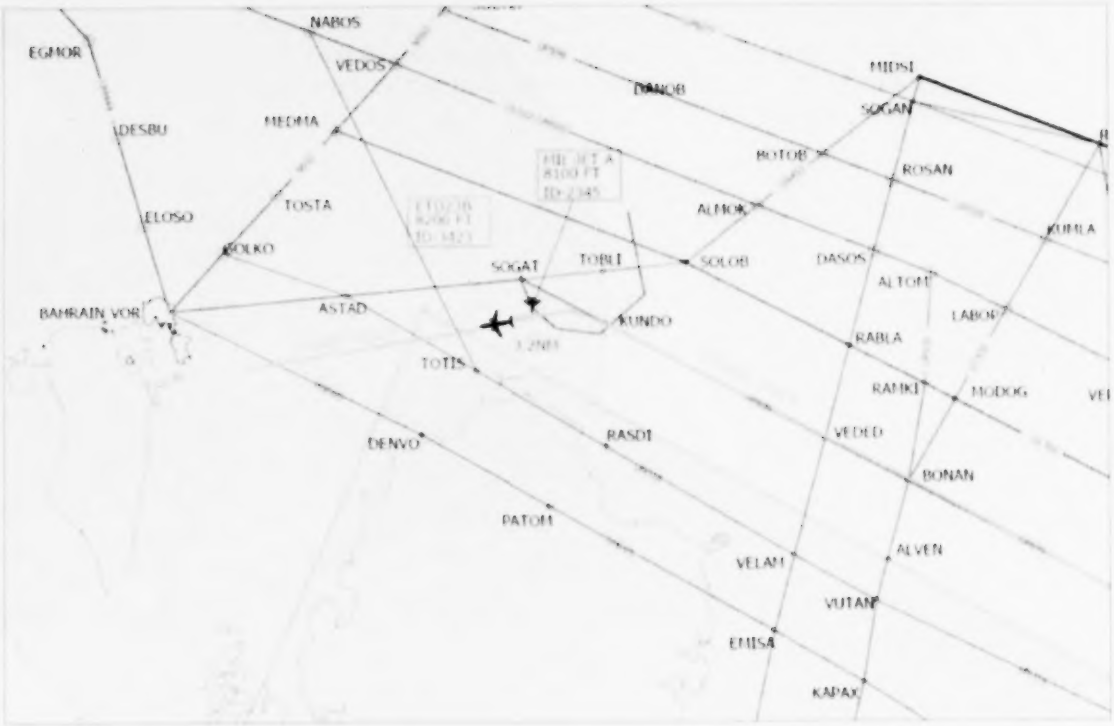
I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Saud Hamad **Alshamsi**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

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